UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.3/53/L.64
17 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-third session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Organization of work of the Third Committee and draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999-2000

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 46/140 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly reaffirmed the recommendations on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee contained in its resolution 45/170 of 18 December 1990 and recommended further rationalization measures, as outlined in annex I to resolution 46/140.

2. The present document contains in annex I measures on the organization of work of the Third Committee and in annex II the draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999-2000. The draft programme has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority. It also takes into account the draft proposals on which the Third Committee has taken action. The information in the annexes will be updated orally by the Secretariat when they are considered by the Committee.

ANNEX I

Organization of work of the Third Committee

A. GUIDELINES CONCERNING TIME-LIMITS OF STATEMENTS

1. In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, the Chairman of the Third Committee should propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers.

2. Further to General Assembly resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and 46/140 of 17 December 1991, on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, statements made by delegations and by Secretariat officials, unless decided otherwise by the Committee at the beginning of the session, should not exceed 7 minutes. Statements made on behalf of a group of delegations or made in connection with the sub-items under the agenda item on human rights questions should not exceed 15 minutes. These time-limits will be applied with a degree of flexibility towards all speakers. With a view to saving time, all speakers are encouraged to exercise self-discipline, in particular delegations associated with group statements. For practical reasons, group statements are encouraged for the first day of the discussion of an item or sub-item. In this connection, it is important to emphasize the timely distribution of documentation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in order to enable delegations to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers at an early stage.

B. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON REPORTS OF TREATY BODIES AND REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF THE TREATIES

3. Reports of all treaty bodies will be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective legislative mandates. Substantive resolutions on those reports should be adopted biennially, in accordance with the programme of work of the Third Committee. Where possible, it is recommended that separate draft resolutions on the status of the treaties should not be submitted but should be incorporated in the draft resolution relating to the report of the treaty body. In alternate years, the Committee should simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action is deemed appropriate.

C. DRAFT PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

4. The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting draft proposals to the General Assembly should, to the extent possible, bear in mind the programme of work of the Third Committee.

D. PROGRAMME OF WORK

5. An informal meeting of the Third Committee should be held immediately after the election of the members of its Bureau in order to consider the programme of work of the Committee based on a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and to consider other organizational aspects relating to the Committee's work, especially the status of documentation.

6. The items allocated to the Third Committee for consideration during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly should be taken up in the following order:

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Item 4. International drug control

Item 5. Advancement of women

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination[1]

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination[1]

Item 12. Human rights questions[2],[3]

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

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[1] Items 10 and 11 are to be discussed jointly. Delegates may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[2] Sub-items (a) and (d) are to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) are to be discussed jointly.

[3] Delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one sub-item.

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

(e) Report of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

7. This arrangement may be reviewed at the organizational meeting of the Third Committee particularly in the light of the status of documentation at that time.

E. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

8. In drawing up draft resolutions, delegations are requested to adhere to the programme of work of the Third Committee as reproduced below.

9. Delegations are invited to take into account the general guidelines agreed upon in Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 regarding the submission of draft proposals and as set out below:[4]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Annual

World social situation

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, International Year of Older Persons and related activities (1999)

Biennial

Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the World Programme of Action

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[4] References to "odd" and "even" years refer to calendar years.

concerning Disabled Persons and the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond (odd years)

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (odd years)

Cooperation to achieve education for all (odd years)

Triennial

Role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (1999)

Quinquennial

Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (2002)

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Annual

Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime (1999)

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1999)

Biennial

Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women (1999)

Quinquennial

United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (2000)

Item 4. International drug control

Annual

Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; international action to combat drug abuse and

illicit trafficking; respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking; United Nations International Drug Control Programme; measures to strengthen international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters; implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Biennial

Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (even years)

Update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (even years)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Annual

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (1999)

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Biennial

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (even years)

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (odd years)

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (odd years)

Violence against women migrant workers (odd years)

Traffic in women and girls (2000)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Annual

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Annual

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

Biennial

New international humanitarian order (even years)

Quinquennial

Extension of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2002)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Annual

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; children with disabilities; prevention and eradication of the sale of children, and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography; protection of children affected by armed conflicts; refugee and internally displaced children; elimination of the exploitation of child labour; plight of children living and/or working on the streets; the girl child

Biennial

Convention on the Rights of the Child (even)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (even)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Annual

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Annual

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (to 2000)

Biennial

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2000)

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (even years)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Annual

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries)

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Annual

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (biennially after the entry into force of the Convention)

Report of the Committee against Torture

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1999)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (1999)

Biennial

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (2000)

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (even years)

International Covenants on Human Rights (odd years)

Reports of meetings of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies (even years)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Annual

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

United Nations Decade on Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights

Respect for universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

Protection of United Nations personnel

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

Biennial

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (even years)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (even years)

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (even years)

Human rights and terrorism (odd years)

National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (odd years)

Human rights and extreme poverty (even years)

Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (odd years)

Human rights and mass exoduses (odd years)

Human rights in the administration of justice (odd years)

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (odd years)

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (odd years)

Human rights and scientific and technological progress (odd years)

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (odd years)

Strengthening of the rule of law (2000)

Quinquennial

Award of human rights prizes (2003)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Annual

Implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annual

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

ANNEX II

Draft biennial programme of work of the Third Committee for 1999-2000

1999[5]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (General Assembly resolution 51/58)[6]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/82 on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[6]

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 52/83)[6]

Report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on ways and means for achieving the goal of education for all (resolution 52/84)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55)[6]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.6 on the International Year of Older Persons, 1999

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[5] The programme of work and documentation for 1999 will be revised in the light of the relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in 1999.

[6] To be submitted to the General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development.

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including relevant information on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/86 on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women[7]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.8)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.9)

Item 4. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 47/100)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.7

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180)[7]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

[7] Submitted to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (resolutions 40/204 and 49/161)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 45/124 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.12/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (resolution 52/93)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (resolution 52/95)

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (resolution 52/97)

Report of the Secretary-General on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.11)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.13)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (General Assembly resolution 50/203 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.27)[7]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.27)

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[7]

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.31)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of

Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.52)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.53)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the question of children in armed conflict (General Assembly resolution 52/107 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.14/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.14/Rev.1)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade (General Assembly resolution 52/108 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.19)

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (resolution 3380 (XXX))

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Intolerance, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.24)

Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals to supplement the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.24)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of

racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.25)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Secretary-General (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.16)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.17)

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (resolution 260 A (III))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 36/151 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.23)

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (resolution 52/116)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.21)

Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.23)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (General Assembly resolution 52/123)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 52/128)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (resolution 52/129)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (resolution 52/132)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (resolution 52/133)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.32)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.33)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.39)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.44)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Plan of Action of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and on public information activities in the field of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.50)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.58)

<u>Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested</u>

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (resolution 52/119)

Human rights in the administration of justice (resolution 52/124)

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (resolution 52/130)

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.36)

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.57)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.59)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Kosovo (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.61)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Situation of human rights in Rwanda (draft resolutions A/C.3/53/L.28 and L.29)

Situation of human rights in Iraq (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.34)

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.38)

Situation of human rights in Haiti (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.43)

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.47)

Situation of human rights in Nigeria (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.51)

Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.60)

Question of human rights in Afghanistan (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.63)

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/121)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation

Report of the High Commissioner (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[7]

Question for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.45)

2000

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (General Assembly resolution 44/56)

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

tem 4. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 47/100)

Report of the Secretary-General containing the biennial update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (resolution 48/112, sect. IV)[7]

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180)[7]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 45/124)

Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in women and girls (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.10)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (General Assembly resolution 50/203 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.27)[7]

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.54)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[7]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the question of children in armed conflict (resolution 52/107)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (General Assembly decision 49/458)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade (resolution 52/108)

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Intolerance, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.24)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI))[7]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (resolution 260 A (III))

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.22/Rev.1

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the meetings of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.22/Rev.1)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the rule of law (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.35)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.41)

Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.42)

Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.46)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Human rights and extreme poverty (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.40)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 48/121)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation

Report of the High Commissioner (resolution 48/141)[7]

United Nations A/C.3/53/L.65

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
19 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 110 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[1] as well as its subsequent resolutions on this matter, in particular resolution 52/148 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling paragraph 100 of part II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the five-year review of progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the need to pay special attention to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the five-year implementation review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, carried out on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] has provided an opportunity to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, that their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments, and that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Convinced that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the significant steps taken over the past five years at both national and international levels to implement the recommendations made by the World Conference on Human Rights,

Deeply concerned, however, about the wide gap that continues to exist between the promise of human rights and their promotion and protection worldwide, and also deeply concerned about denials and violations of human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — including the right to development,

Reaffirming the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of all human rights and in humanitarian activities at the national, regional and international levels, and appreciating their contribution to increasing public awareness of human rights issues, to the conduct of education, training and research in this field, and to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[3] and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Solemnly declares* its commitment to the fulfilment of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;[1]

3. *Welcomes* agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council[4] on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and calls for their full implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action continues to constitute a solid foundation for further action and initiatives by States, the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations, as well as concerned national institutions and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights for all in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference;

6. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

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[3] A/53/

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VI, para. 3.